

# Alumni Columns

Magazine Fall 2002  
Northwestern State University of Louisiana



## Our Up & Comers

**Dr. Chris Maggio, '85**  
*Director Alumni Affairs*



Fellow Northwestern Graduates and Friends:

One of the greatest benefits of working on a college campus is being able to work with so many young men and women who are beginning their higher education and training toward their ultimate career goals. It is exciting to advise students and watch with enthusiasm as they mature and progress while at Northwestern. The ultimate gratification is seeing our students during graduation ceremonies as they exit their formal education and begin their lives in the workforce.

I see the positive results of a Northwestern education on a daily basis. I am filled with pride when I walk into a school and see our graduates serving as principals, counselors and teachers. I am delighted when I read where our graduates receive promotions and awards in their chosen fields. Many of our alumni have achieved so much and hopefully the education and experiences received at Northwestern assisted in this success.

Included in this issue is an article on young alumni. We have spotlighted four NSU graduates who are making a tremendous impact in their chosen professions. We could have focused in on many, many more. Our young graduates are very well prepared and competitive in today's workforce. I hope that you enjoy reading about a sample of our young graduates.

I also want to remind you that Homecoming is just around the corner. We will celebrate Homecoming activities on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. There are several groups reuniting on campus including a very special group of pre-World War II students. The late 30's and early 40's saw a tight-knit group of students on campus for which many higher education plans had to be put on hold when the war broke out. We look forward to recognizing this special group.

Finally, it is our goal to keep alumni active in the identification and recruitment of prospective students to NSU. With this in mind, the university has hired a recruiter, Ashley Lynn, to coordinate our alumni recruiting efforts. Anyone interested in getting involved with student recruitment please contact Ashley at [lynna@nsula.edu](mailto:lynna@nsula.edu). Your involvement will be appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

**About the cover:** Dr. Chris Kevil ('92), poses in his lab at LSU Health Science Center in Shreveport.

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# Our Up & Comers

**A**n education from Northwestern is a great start on making alumni immediately competitive in the workforce. That is proven by the accomplishments of some recent alumni.

*Many recent graduates have proven to be some of the best. Our up and coming alumni continue to make great strides in their careers and see a long, successful future ahead of them.*

*Four of our young alumni under the age of 35 share their experiences and how NSU helped make them who they are today.*

## The Medical Researcher



**D**r. Chris Kevil is an assistant professor in the department of pathology at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. His primary focus at the university is research, particularly in cardiovascular disease, but he also teaches medical and graduate students.

After graduating in 1992 from Northwestern, Kevil went to medical school at the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he earned his doctorate in molecular and cellular physiology in 1998.

Kevil credits his interest in medicine to a particular time at NSU.

“Actually, it’s more of a class,” said Kevil. “Dr. Thomas Burns was head of the biology department and I was taking a comparative physiology class from him. It was then that I crystallized an interest in physiology. I am glad to see that he is doing so well. He was very influential early on.”

Kevil is a prominent scientist in his field, not just among other researchers, but with legislators and service groups. Over the last four years he has published numerous academic articles and book chapters and has spoken at international symposia, travelling to places such as Munich, Stockholm and Sydney.

This past summer, Kevil traveled to Washington, D.C. to give a talk to Congress on biomedical research, particularly on the human genome project.

“It’s amazing to be young and in this field,” he said. “I see all that has been accomplished and I will see what’s to come. The overwhelming majority of people are in their forties and fifties. Some people still think I am a student. I have many opportunities afforded to me because of my age.”

As for the future, Kevil plans to spend more time with his family. Even with a rigorous academic schedule, he looks forward to life with his wife and son.

“I have come to appreciate and cherish my son,” said Kevil. “I enjoy family time more than anything.”

# Our Up & Comers

## The Journalist

Christine Chang has been afforded the opportunities to live in various parts of the country since graduating with a degree in journalism in 1997. After graduation, she headed northeast to work in public broadcasting with the New Jersey Network in Trenton. She later became an anchor and reporter for KEZI-TV in Eugene, Oregon.

She is now the morning and mid-day anchor at KTNV in Las Vegas, including the Good Morning Las Vegas show.

Chang attributes part of her success to her education she obtained at NSU.

"What really helped was the hands-on experience in my journalism classes," Chang said. "My senior year we started a newscast. We did all the work, literally. It made me appreciate the work involved and humbled me in many ways."

If there is one thing Chang loves the most about living in a large city, it is the food.

"I love being around all the restaurants and all the food," she said. "I love to eat and there are always new restaurants popping up, so there is access to a variety of foods."

Chang lives in an exciting city and has an exciting career, but still looks back at her days as a student fondly.

"The community value in Natchitoches is not replaceable," she said. "I wouldn't trade my college experience for the world. I love my school."

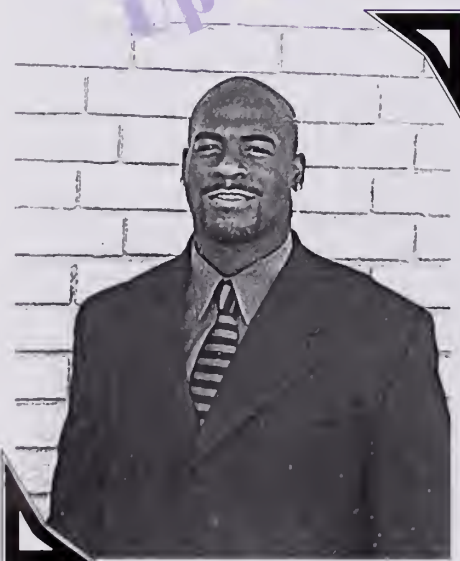
## The Mortgage Banker

Rob Robertson, a 2000 graduate, is off to a fast start in his career. Robertson left Baton Rouge, where his grandmother raised him, and came to Northwestern to play football in 1994.

"Leaving a larger city to come to Northwestern really matured me," said Robertson. "It allowed me to humble myself and influence me positively in a lot of way because it slowed me down."

In 1997, Robertson left college to play professional football. For two years, he was a fullback for the Baltimore Ravens, then injuries took him out of the game. He returned to Northwestern to finish his degree in business administration.

"There was a great staff in the business department," he said. "They were like a family because they would cling to me and look out for me. I really learned because they made you work for it, but they also really cared about your success. That motivated you to finish."





# Our Up & Comers

Robertson now lives in Atlanta and is a district director mortgage banker for GMFS. He has worked for them since last year.

Robertson has also joined with another professional athlete to create the Make a Play Foundation. This year, the foundation sponsored a football camp for young athletes. They not only taught the campers how to play football, but spoke to them about having alternate goals to fall back on if professional sports does not work out for them. This gave the children an opportunity to learn about going to college and other career avenues.

"I always live by the motto 'If your mind can conceive it and your heart can believe it, then you can achieve it,'" said Robertson. "Keep your head up and God will make a way."

## The Attorney



After graduating from NSU in 1995, Maryalyce Walsh Cox headed to Houston to receive a juris doctorate from the University of Houston Law School. She graduated summa cum laude from law school in 1999 and after taking the bar, joined the firm Mehaffy and Weber in Beaumont, Texas.

"Northwestern and the Louisiana Scholars' College provided me with an excellent education and the background I needed to attend law school," Cox said. "Prior to attending NSU, I was undecided about my career plans. However, with the help of the wonderful faculty and the Scholars' College, particularly Grady Ballenger, I decided law school was for me. The guidance I received from the faculty helped me choose the career path best suited for me and I have found a profession I thoroughly enjoy."

During her time at NSU, Cox was not only a student, but an athlete as well. She received a cross country and track scholarship while competing for four years. Cox credits her leadership skills to being a team member.

"My time as part of the team helped me develop leadership skills as a team captain and the competition strengthened my confidence, determination and discipline," she said. "The skills I developed on the track now carry over into my professional career, which is often competitive and requires confidence, especially for lady lawyers."

Cox is married to Erik Cox, a 1992 NSU graduate and assistant sports information director at Lamar University. They have one daughter, Sydney Diane. III

## Six honored with induction into **THE Long Purple Line**



**S**ix of Northwestern State University's most accomplished alumni will be inducted into the NSU Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, as part of Homecoming activities Oct. 18-19.

This year's inductees are former NFL quarterback *Bobby Hebert*, political consultant *Raymond Strother* and health care executive *Cheryl Wilson* along with the late Northwestern President and State Senator *A.A. Fredericks*, businessman *Charlie Ragus* and District Judge *R. B. Williams*.

"Each of these individuals carried the ideas and values of Northwestern with them wherever they went," said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "They are men and women of outstanding character and dedication who achieved much on a local, state and national level. Northwestern is proud to honor them as distinguished alumni."

### **A.A. Fredericks**



**F**redericks served as president of Louisiana State Normal (now Northwestern) from 1934 until 1941. He was also a state senator from 1932 until 1941.

He piloted bills through the Legislature on compulsory school attendance, child adoption, equal education for all, child welfare and old age assistance.

During his presidency, the College underwent its greatest building program to date, as more than \$4,000,000 were spent on construction during his tenure. Additions included Russell Hall, a new stadium, Caspari Hall, a men's gymnasium (the present IM building), a fine arts building (now named for Fredericks), a student center, a natatorium, an infirmary and a new power plant. A new high school and trade school were also built on the Normal campus.

Fredericks later worked for Kansas City Southern and L&A railroads as a special representative. He served as executive secretary to Governor Earl Long during two terms of office and also served as State Commissioner of Public Welfare.

Fredericks was a native of Clear Lake. He attended Louisiana State Normal and after obtaining a teaching certificate was a principal at Sharp and Gorum. He taught agriculture at Normal for 13 years.

In 1965, he received the title of president emeritus. Fredericks died in 1975.

### **Bobby Hebert**



**H**ebert, known as the "Cajun Cannon" during his pro career, played in the NFL for the Saints from 1985-89 and 1991-92 and for the Atlanta Falcons from 1993-96. He had a 49-26 (.653) record as a starter for the Saints, leading the club to its best record (12-4, 1992) and its only division title (11-5) despite playing most of the 1991 season with a shoulder injury.

In his NFL career, Hebert completed 60 percent of his passes (1,856-3,104) for 21,683 yards, 135 touchdowns and 124 interceptions. He had 15 NFL games with at least 275 yards passing, including a career-best 363 yards on 28 of 49 aim for Atlanta in his final season against the San Francisco 49ers.

He spent his first three pro seasons as a starter in the United States Football League, leading the Michigan Panthers to the inaugural league title and being named championship game MVP as a rookie. In three USFL seasons, Hebert threw for 11,137 yards and 81 touchdowns.

Hebert was an honorable mention All-American as a sophomore at Northwestern State when he set a single-season passing yardage mark in 1981. Hebert set a single-game Demon record with 465 yards in total offense and tied another with four touchdown passes.

### **Charlie Ragus**



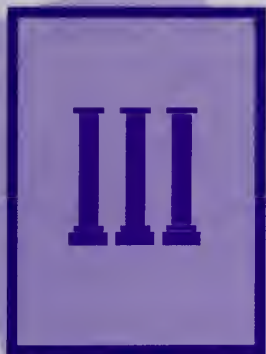
**R**agus was a 1965 graduate of Northwestern where he was a member of the football team. He was the founder of AdvoCare, a leading nutritional supplement company. Ragus died in 2001.

After earning a business degree from Northwestern, Ragus played briefly for the Kansas City Chiefs. He had careers in insurance, retail and real estate before joining a direct sales supplement company in 1983. He started a similar company with a partnership and eventually sold his interest.

Ragus founded AdvoCare as a company that would sell leading-edge products and help people be proactive about their health. He chose direct selling as the distribution vehicle because it is based on one-to-one relationships.

AdvoCare was named to the prestigious Dallas 100 for five years in a row. The list includes North Texas' fastest growing, privately held companies. Ragus was also a finalist in the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year for the Southwest Region for the past several years.





## THE Long Purple Line THE Long Purple Line

Ragus made a donation of \$100,000 to benefit the the Athletic Department at NSU. Earlier this year, the Ragus' family made a pledge of \$400,000 to create the Charles E. Ragus and Family Endowed Chair in Business.

### Raymond Strother



**S**trother has produced television and offered strategic campaign advice to more than 300 Democratic candidates for governor, senator, congress and president in the firm of Strother/Duffy/Strother for more than 30 years.

His other business, StrategyDotGov, with offices in Atlanta and Austin, helps blue chip corporations with strategic public planning. Strother began his career as a political journalist for the Associated Press and has written for the New York Times, Washington Post, Newsweek, Atlanta Constitution and numerous political publications. His novel, "Cottonwood," was published in 1991 and he will have an autobiography, "Falling Up," published this year.

In 1999 he was a resident fellow at Harvard in Kennedy School of Government and is currently past president and chairman of the board of the American Association of Political Consultants. He has lectured three times at the University of Bologna, Italy and at numerous universities throughout the U.S., including Northwestern.

A native of Port Arthur, Texas, Strother attended Northwestern from 1958-1960 on a track scholarship.

### R. B. Williams



**W**illiams was a Natchitoches attorney for 33 years until he was elected district judge from Natchitoches and Red River parishes in 1966. He served on the bench for 14 years. Williams was president of the Louisiana District Judges Association in 1978-79. He was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in 1969-1970 and in 1973, and the Louisiana Supreme Court as justice ad hoc in 1987. He served as judge ad hoc in numerous parishes throughout Louisiana. Williams died in 2001.

A 1930 graduate of Louisiana State Normal, Williams was a two-sport athlete, lettering in baseball and tennis. He was a member of the college's first tennis team. Williams was also a graduate of Tulane Law School and the National College of State Trial Judges.

He was recognized for his continued support of his alma mater after graduation being awarded NSU's "Nth" Degree in 1986. In 1999, he was inducted into the first class of the St. Mary's Academic Hall of Fame.

Williams served in World War II, voluntarily enlisting in the U.S. Navy after Pearl Harbor. He served as a commander in the Navy and after the war was commander of the Natchitoches Area Naval Reserve.

He was married to the late Ora Garland Williams for 52 years. Ora Garland Williams was a charter member of the Long Purple Line.

### Cheryl Wilson



**W**ilson has been chief operating officer at Rapides Regional Medical Center in Alexandria since 1997 and has also served as interim chief executive officer. She has 21 years of progressive hospital management experience with HCA. From 1981 until 1997, she worked at Brownwood Regional Medical Center in Brownwood, Texas where she was chief operating officer in her final two years.

From 1974 until 1977, Wilson worked in higher education as assistant dean of students/dean of women at Howard Payne University. She was a caseworker for the Texas Youth Commission from 1977 until 1980.

Wilson earned a bachelor of arts in journalism and a master of arts in student personnel services at NSU. She received a master of science in hospital and health care administration at Trinity University.

During her career, Wilson has been active in civic activities. She is member of the board of the Northwestern State University Foundation, chairman of the board of the Central Louisiana Chapter of the American Red Cross and campaign chairman of the executive committee of the United Way of Central Louisiana.



## 1899 Diploma



Accepting the donation of an 1899 State Normal School diploma from Bill Reese (center) is Alumni Director Chris Maggio (left) and Assistant Alumni Director Janay Matt (right).

The NSU Alumni Association was treated to a special surprise when Bill Reese, father of alumnus Devon Reese ('88), donated a diploma he found in his father's house. The diploma, dated 1899, belonged to Judge Wiley Jones, who owned the house before Reese's father. As Reese was cleaning the house recently, he found the diploma hidden in a closet. After searching for relative of Jones, he decided it would best be served as a Normal School memento in the Alumni House.

## Alumni Help Children Get an Even Start



The Natchitoches Even Start Program and the Natchitoches Parish School Board employ a number of NSU graduates. Shown are (front) Sandy Irchirl, teacher; Elwanda Murphy ('80), Superintendent of NPSB; Christine Prewitt ('73) Even Start coordinator; Alice M. Rachal, director of federal programs; (back) Gwen Antee Hardison ('85), supervisor of federal programs, Rodney Irchirl ('93), social worker; Doris Hullaby, coordinator at Parks Elementary; Thurman Baptiste ('72) principal of Parks Elementary; Kathy Bundrick ('87) reading specialist; Shirley Sneed ('89) teacher and Gwen Antee Hardison ('85) supervisor of federal programs for the NPSB.

Many NSU alumni maintain a relationship to fellow NSU students long beyond graduation and many former students find themselves working together for a common good. There has never been a better example than among Even Start workers in Natchitoches.

Christine Prewitt, a 1973 NSU graduate and Even Start Coordinator for Natchitoches Parish, realizes how their program is enhanced by the cooperation among their employees, most of which are Northwestern alumni.

"We love getting NSU students," Prewitt said. "I feel like I was well prepared when I was at NSU and we know the school is a good resource for quality educators."

Since many on the staff are NSU alumni, they enjoy using the direction and guidance that they obtain from their alma mater.

"We're all very close to NSU," said Alice M. Rachal. "We've worked so well together and brought parents together. We really have that NSU connection."

"It was the right range of culture there," said Shirley Jones Sneed, an Even Start teacher and 1989 graduate. "Different views of different things. You are able to get in the classroom with diverse people."

These educators still use Northwestern as a resource as their relationships with their faculty never ceased.

"One of the advantages of working close to NSU is being able to continue my education," said Rodney Irchirl, a social worker and 1993 graduate working toward a master's degree in education.

According to Elwanda Murphy, superintendent of the Natchitoches Parish School Board who obtained a doctorate from Northwestern, the Even Start program and the Natchitoches Parish School Board will continue to hire Northwestern graduates.

"We are highly impacted by Northwestern and we feel very good about the background training our employees get from the school," Murphy said. "For any teachers who I have taught and who work for me, I am very proud of what they can do." III

## Graduate "N" Club Opens Web Site

The Northwestern Graduate "N" Club invites you to visit their newly opened Web site. The site was created to keep members informed and up to date of current events of the university and each other.

Visit [www.nsunclub.com](http://www.nsunclub.com) today.



## Webb discusses NSU's recent progress

Northwestern State University President Dr. Randall J. Webb said the university's emphasis on quality academic programs is continuing to pay off as the institution begins its 2002-2003 academic year.

Webb outlined NSU's accomplishments over the past year and future plans for the university in an address at the annual Faculty Institute.

"As I travel around Louisiana, I hear good things about what you are doing as members of Northwestern's faculty," said Webb who is beginning his seventh year as NSU's president. "I hear exceptional things about the quality of the academic program at the university and how people's perceptions about that quality are causing more and more of the better students to choose Northwestern."

Webb said the number of students accepting academic scholarships increased by 41 percent over last year. In addition, the number of high school valedictorians and salutatorians accepting scholarships has increased. The University also had a record number of students attend the summer orientation program, Freshman Connection.

Several building projects are also progressing. Webb said renovation work has begun on Morrison Hall, the home of the Louisiana Scholars' College and the Family and Consumer Sciences Building. The project to renovate the Intramural Building should also begin by year's end.





## From Cane River Belles to Demon Dazzlers: NSU's Jazz Line Celebrates over Twenty-five Years of Performances



The Demon Dazzler Dance Line has a long tradition of adding a bit of glamour to the already dynamic sound of the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band. Through the years, the line has changed and transformed itself from a high-stepping novelty group into the jazz group it is today.

In 1976, the NSU administration decided adding spirit groups would attract more students to Northwestern. The athletic department chose a dance line to enhance spirit during football games and contacted Vicki Parrish to begin the program.

As a result, the Cane River Belles Dance Line was formed as an extra-curricular activity in the dance area of the health and physical education department.

Parrish had taught dance for the Half-Time USA Camp Corporation. The dance style incorporated high kicks and novelty dancing. She choreographed for the line for 10 years.

"I brought that style into it," Parrish said. "Their costumes were like the Strutters at Southwest Texas, with white cowboy boots and vests."

Jodi Tarver Shirley ('81) was one of the original 1976 Cane River Belles.

"It was a really enjoyable experience," Shirley said. "All the girls became close. Vicki Parrish fostered that. I was also glad to see the dance line incorporated into the band. It was a good added element."

Later, Parrish decided to go back to graduate school, so Kara Andrews became the director. The style of the line moved from high-kicks to jazz. She felt the name did not reflect the type of dance being performed, so they became the Demon Dazzlers. Later, Kim Garner became the choreographer.

Parrish later became the faculty sponsor again. Choreography eventually became the responsibility of the student performers and scholarships were given to each member.

In 2001, Abe Anthony became the head of all spirit groups, and is the faculty sponsor of the Demon Dazzler Dance Line.

Several members of the line have continued dancing after their college career. Some have become Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders and Shreveport Mudbug dancers. Some own their own dance studios.

"What started off as an extra-curricular activity has turned into a profession for some," Parrish said.

The Demon Dazzlers will be able to come together once again to visit and perform during half time at Homecoming. Former members will perform the Demon fight song along with the band. The NSU Alumni Association will host a reunion reception for former dance line members on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Alumni Center. III

## NSU Campus Women's Club Honors One of Our Finest Alumni

### III

The Northwestern State University Campus Women's Club honored one of NSU's most distinguished alumni by naming their annual scholarship award the Elise P. James Campus Women's Club Non-traditional Student Scholarship.



Brenda Webb (left) representing the Campus Women's Club and Chris Maggio (right) Director of Alumni Affairs, visit with Elise James (center) on the occasion of a scholarship named in James' honor.

"I want to thank the NSU Campus Women's Club for this honor," said James. "I am happy that this will benefit a non-traditional student and I look forward to meeting each recipient."

James was a non-traditional student herself. While raising a family, she earned a bachelor's degree in business from Northwestern in 1968. She earned a master's in 1971. After earning her graduate degree, she became an instructor of business administration and office management in 1972.

In 1982, she was promoted to the rank of assistant professor of business administration and office management. Three years later, James was named coordinator of alumni activities and assistant professor of business. She was named director of development and alumni activities in 1990 and director of alumni development in 1995. She retired in 1997.

James was the first recipient of the President's Distinguished Service Award at NSU. She was also inducted into NSU's Hall of Distinguished Alumni, the Long Purple Line in 2000.

The NSU Campus Women's Club is a social club whose biggest project of the year is raising funds for two annual scholarships.

"We hope this is momentum to get our membership going in full," said Brenda Webb, ex-officio president. "Our goal is to help young women by awarding scholarships."

To make donations to the Elise P. James Campus Women's Club Non-traditional Student Scholarship, contact the NSU Foundation at (318) 357-4414. III



## Looking Back

### Guess Who?



*Can you guess the names of the Demon Dazzler Dance Line shown in the picture? If so, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 318-357-4414. The first five people to call with the correct answer will win a prize!*

#### Guess Who Winners:

Congratulations to Grace Wilson Brasher ('79) of Harahan, Mary Thomas ('80) of Kelly and Pam Heatherwick of Natchitoches. They correctly guessed that the members of the 1980 State Fair Court are Darlene Strickland, Tina Morrell, Karlette Metoyer, Diane McCarty, Denis Warren, Susan Sands, Pitty Cathey and Trina Patten.



## Celebrate the 60 Year Anniversary of the 1942 Championship Football Team with a Special Tribute to Athletes who Became World War II Veterans



Dwight Morris married his wife, Melba Jean, before entering World War II.

It's been 60 years since the 1942 Louisiana State Normal College football team clinched the L.I.C. Championship. 1942 was also the year that many of the school's men decided to join the war efforts and fight in World War II. The entire 1942 football team left school to serve their country.

A reception honoring those athletes will be held during Homecoming festivities Oct. 18. The reception will precede the annual Homecoming Banquet and include a special program honoring some of the WWII veterans as well as the 1942 Normal football team.

The program will feature such alumni as Alton Lloyd Townsend, a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Townsend was inducted into the Army Air Corps in 1942. He served in India and China as a pilot and participated in campaign of the China Defensive and the Japan Offensive. Townsend is a recipient of the Purple Heart and the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre of Operations Medal with two battle stars. He was a prisoner of the Japanese for nearly two years.

Another noted veteran is Lieutenant David Bramlett. The most decorated alumni among NSU's athletes, he received five Purple Hearts and two Silver Stars and other awards during his time in the Army, serving in France, Africa, Sicily and Germany. After leaving the Army in 1946, he returned to school and finished 12 hours to graduate with a degree in business. Bramlett died in 1991.

Many men who joined the service decided to marry before leaving home. Dwight Morris, who joined the Air Force while attending Normal, returned to Natchitoches to marry his sweetheart after earning his wings. He named his B-26 bomber after his wife, Melba Jean. He later retired as a full colonel. Morris died in 1988.

These three alumni are among many who gave up time completing their college education to serve the United States. The NSU Alumni Association invites every one to join in a tribute to all the veterans and athletes of this time.

For more information and to make a reservation contact Theophile Scott at (318) 869-4621 or the Alumni Center at (318) 357-4414 or (888)799-6486. III



## Dinner with the President



Rep. Wayne and Susan Simpson ('70) Wadell enjoyed having dinner with President Randall Webb.



Jesse ('35) and Eloise Boucher and their daughter Sherry had a chance to visit President Webb.



Keith and Julie ('76) Bergeron spent an evening with the NSU President and Mrs. Webb and other alumni.



Roy ('66) and Dorothy James pose for a picture with NSU's first family.

## Library Science Reunion

Nona Nelms Bobo ('52) and Cheryl Choate ('75) enjoyed each other's company during the Library Science Alumni Reunion.



During the Library Science Alumni Reunion held this summer, former faculty member Fern Christian was elected president and Bettye Beasley Bruning ('53) was elected vice president of the organization.

## Winnfield Annual Reception



Benny ('52) and Beth Smith enjoyed dinner at the annual Winnfield Alumni Day this summer.

Jana and Matt ('97) Endris, their daughter Claire and father Leonard Endris ('74) enjoyed gathering with other Winnfield alumni at the annual reception this summer.





## Meet Scott Stoker



Jack Brittain, Jr. ('79), Danny Dison and Mike Wilburn ('75) talked sports during a reception to meet Scott Stoker.



Rudy Hines ('78), Steven Pezant ('89) and George Etheredge ('72) were able to visit with each other as well as with football staff at the Meet Scott Stoker reception.



Ricky Davis ('65), Wayne Hanson and Ty Sibley ('50) met with athletic official during the Meet Scott Stoker reception in Shreveport.



Bill ('77) and Lorraine Bossier met with other Baton Rouge alumni at a reception held in conjunction with the Louisiana High School Coaches Association conference.



Floyd Carbo ('43), Pauline Jobe ('42) and Dr. Joe Parker ('50) visited during the Baton Rouge Reception this summer.



Athletic Director Greg Burke caught up with former athlete Roman Gage at the Baton Rouge alumni reception.



Dr. William Haile ('43), Dr. Bobby Wicker ('59) and NSU Head Basketball Coach Mike McConathy visit during the Baton Rouge Alumni Reception.



## Houston Crawfish Boil



Donna Rush Acosta ('90), husband Kendall ('88) and their daughter Sally attended the Houston Alumni Crawfish Boil



Owen ('77) and Julie Gill attended the annual crawfish boil for Houston alumni.



Thomas ('82) and Liz Swacker grabbed the chance to visit with other Houston alumni at the crawfish boil.



Chris Maggio visited with Houston alumni (front) Paula Rubin ('86), Demetra Ellis ('91), (back) Christine Frank ('96), Mitzi Adderley ('87) and Brunetta Anthony ('91).

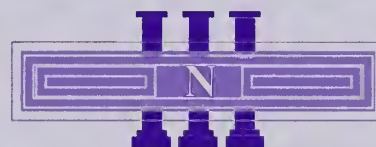
## PE Majors Reunion



Jo Ann Mitchell Prater ('73) and Dr. Roberta Pearl Wescott ('66) visited at the Alumni House during a reception for former P.E. Majors.



Carolyn Woodward Miguez, Maxine Queyrouse Nicaud ('61) Carolyn Roberts Weber ('63), Marie Blanchard Gahagan ('62) and Carolyn Ivy Smith had the chance to tour Nelson Hall, formerly known as the women's gym during the P.E. Majors Club Reunion.



Ernie Tyler, a 1941 graduate ran with the Olympic Torch during the 1992 Olympic Games. He is shown with his wife Hazel.



## HOMECOMING 2002 SCHEDULE

### Thursday, October 17

**NSU Retirees Reception** 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. – Alumni Center  
Reception for all Northwestern Retirees.

### Friday, October 18

**Homecoming Golf Tournament** Recreation Complex - Come participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual golf scramble on the 18-hole golf course for \$50 per player (includes golf cart and lunch by Coach Gene Knecht). Tee time is at 1 p.m. and lunch will be served at 12 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling Hall Adams at the NSU Recreation Complex at 318-357-3207.

**Alumni Association Board Meeting** 10 a.m. Room 221, Student Union. Annual Board of Directors meeting. Open to the public.

**NSU Foundation Board Meeting** 1:30 p.m. Cane River Room, Student Union. Open to the public.

**Homecoming Parade** 5 p.m. (approx.) – Campus/Town Annual Homecoming Parade for both the Northwestern and Natchitoches communities. Begins at Prather Coliseum and ends at the Downtown Riverbank. Pep rally on the Riverbank will follow parade.

**World War II Era Students Reunion Reception** 5:30 p.m. – President's Room, Student Union. A reception honoring students who attended Northwestern in the late 1930's and 1940's. For more information please call Chris Maggio, Director of Alumni Affairs at 357-4414 or 888-799-6486.

#### Reception

5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. **By Invitation Only.** Honoring Alumni Board, Foundation Board, Distinguished Faculty Recipients, Long Purple Line Recipients and President's Distinguished Service Award Recipient.

#### Homecoming Banquet

7 p.m. – Student Union Ballroom Annual banquet honoring Long Purple Line recipients, the President's Distinguished Service Award Recipient, Distinguished Faculty Award Recipients and N-Club Inductees. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the Alumni Center or by calling 357-4414 or 888-799-6486. Social prior to the banquet will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Student Union.

### Saturday, October 19

**5K "Run for Richard"** 8:30 a.m. – Begins at Ledet Track Complex Cost is \$15 per person, which includes a t-shirt and a game ticket. Advanced reservations are required. Call 357-5251 for details. Proceeds will benefit the Richard Ware Scholarship Fund.

**College of Business Alumni Breakfast** 8:30 a.m. – Ballroom, Student Union All graduates of the College of Business are invited to attend a breakfast that will honor inductees of the College's Hall of Distinction. For more information, call (318) 357-5161.

**College of Education Reunion** 8:30 a.m. –

Teachers Education Building All graduates of the College of Education are invited to attend a breakfast that will honor the inductees of the College's Hall of Distinguished Educators. For more information, call (318) 357-4414 or 888-799-6486.

**N-Club Hall of Fame Induction**

**Ceremony** 10 a.m. – Prather Coliseum

**University Bookstore Open** 10 a.m. – 2

p.m. – Student Union Go by the bookstore and buy your NSU memorabilia!

**Alumni Tailgating** 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. –

Tailgating Field The Alumni Association will be serving plate lunches for \$5 per person. All NSU Alumni are invited to come by the tent and grab something to eat before the game. It will be a great time to visit with friends you haven't seen in a while.

**Tailgating Activities** 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

– Tailgating Field adjacent to Turpin Stadium. Various groups, including the Greek organizations, N-Club and College of Education will be tailgating prior to the football game.

**Pre-game Activities** 2:30 p.m. – Turpin

Stadium Enjoy the pre-game show by the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band and other game day activities.

**Homecoming Game vs. Southwestern**

**Oklahoma** 3 p.m. – Turpin Stadium

**Halftime Ceremonies** 4:30 p.m. (approx.) –

Turpin Stadium

**Band Alumni Party (members only)** 6 p.m.

(approx.) – Alumni Center

**Demon Dazzler Reunion Reception (members**

**only)** 6 p.m. (approx.) – Alumni Center

**Postgame Reception for Homecoming**

**Court** 6 p.m. (approx.) – Steve and Lori Stroud Hospitality Room, Athletic Fieldhouse (by invitation only)

**N-Club Activities (members only)** 6 p.m.

(approx.) – Shriners' Club

**"Boogie on the Bricks"** 6 p.m. (approx.) –

Front Street Join Demon fans in the Historic District for music, food and drink as Natchitoches puts on its best for the Demons!





1950

Walter Scott Sandefur III retired after 40 years from the University of North Texas. He is married and lives in Denton, Texas.

1953

Glynn Ellen Pennington McCoy is a paralegal for Legal Services of North La. She lives in Shreveport.

1956

Donald Ray Mott is a retired teacher. He is married and lives in Baton Rouge.

1959

George A. Cates is retired from PPG Industries, Inc. in Pittsburgh, Pa. He is married and lives in Tucson, Ariz.

1961

Marvin Ray Jordan is a probation officer and administrator for the State of Louisiana Department of Social Services. He is married and lives in Pineville.

Elizabeth Ann Gray is the project coordinator at Concentra Medical Center in Orange, Calif. She lives in Carlsbad, Calif.

Charles Alfred Burlison retired from the Caddo Parish School Board in 1995 as a principal. He is married and lives in Shreveport.

1963

Jane Jeffress Gault is a retired educator. She is married and lives in Pleasant Hill.

Gene Koury has received the Kisatche-Delta Entrepreneur of the Year award for 2002 in July.

1964

Jesse Wayne Crooks is the CEO and Baptist minister at Jesse Crooks Ministries. He is married and lives in Thomasville, N.C.

1969

Lynn Ellen Nollkamper Hebert is a lab analyst at PPG Industries, Inc. She is married and lives in Sulphur.

# III

## Linda Day

### Class of 1967

Linda Day vividly remembers the high esteem in which teachers were held in her family. The 1967 Northwestern graduate spent more than 30 years in education as a teacher, school administrator and official in the Louisiana Association of Educators.

"I remember when I told my father I wanted to be a teacher," said Day. "He was thrilled. It was like a calling to me. To our family, being a teacher was the best profession anyone could go into. I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

"Nothing else gave me the professional satisfaction of teaching. I loved teaching middle school and subjects including social studies, reading, debate and economics," said Day.

Day was elected LAE president in 1989 and served for four years. She was the first president of the organization to serve for two terms. In 1993, she was asked by Gov. Edwin Edwards and Louisiana Attorney General Richard Ieyoub to serve in the State Office of Drug Policy and Community Affairs. In 1997, she returned to the LAE as executive director. Day also served as a member of the Electoral College from Louisiana, making up part of the group that actually elects the President of the United States.

Day is quick to give credit to many faculty and staff at Northwestern in helping her to succeed. She remembers being influenced and helped by people such as Hurst Hall, Pete Gregory, Dan Carr, Keith Runyon, Otis Crew, Dorothy Bowen and Lucille Hendricks.

"I love Northwestern," said Day. "I came to Northwestern with limited experiences. My parents gave me a good foundation in morals, values and belief in myself. Northwestern was able to catapult me into a successful career. I felt like I was part of a family at Northwestern. While I was there, I felt safe and knew I was going to succeed."

"At Northwestern, I was exposed to a new cultural environment. I was from Shreveport and roomed with girls from Plaquemine. That opened up a whole new world for me."

Day also enjoyed being part of the staff at the Current Sauce.

"I remember always being busy. I never sat in my room wanting something to do," she said.

Northwestern honored Day by naming her to the College of Education's Hall of Distinguished Educators in 2000.

Day is retired and lives near Doddridge, Ark. She is still active as an advisor to elected officials and candidates on educational policy. III



1970

Blanche Garb Sibley is an ICU nurse. She is married and lives in Tequesta, Fla.

Michael Allen Delcambre is a teacher and coach at Iberia Middle School. He is married and lives in Delcambre.

1973

Patrick Dennis Haygood is the director of human resources at EWTN Global Catholic Network in Birmingham, Ala.

1977

Martha Jane Curry Stroud is a kindergarten teacher at Waller Elementary in Bossier.

Dr. Jeff Totten has accepted a position of assistant professor of marketing at Southeastern Louisiana University, starting the fall 2002 semester. He is married and lives in Hammond.

1978

Charles Grau retired from the United States Navy as a Commander in April 2002. He is the director of business and development at Quantrex ITG. He is married and lives in Virginia Beach, Va.

1984

Dawn Doherty Johnson is a homemaker. She is married to Bill Johnson ('82), a former NSU defensive line coach. They have two children and reside in Suwanee, Ga. where Bill is an assistant coach with the Atlanta Falcons.

1985

Kathryn Jenney Lesko is the director of public relations at Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville, N.J. She lives in Glen Ridge, N.J. She recently received two first place awards in the 55<sup>th</sup> annual North Jersey Press Club Memorial Journalism Awards.

1986

Patrick S. Turner is employed by the FBI as a special agent. He is married and lives in Portage, Ind.

Valerie Rose Palmere Scott is the owner, president and clinician of Better Legs, Incorporated. She is married and lives Bossier City.

Deatrice Newton Carger is employed at Syntex Management Solutions as an oracle database administrator. She lives in Baytown, Texas with her two children.

1989

Sandra Lee Foshee Beasley works at NSU in the Information Systems Office as a computer operator. She is married and lives in Provencal.

1991

Marc Todd Misuraca is the owner of Road Avengers Roadside Assistance and Towing. He is married and lives in McKinney, Texas.

Jerome Perrault is film production manager. He lives in Paris, France.

Jennifer Lea Anderson is employed by the State of Louisiana Department of Education at Region VI Educational Service Center as a program coordinator.

1993

Tina Marie Foret Bonstaff works at The American Cancer Society as the income development project manager in the New Orleans and Westbank region and event manager for Making Strides Against Cancer Walk for the entire state of Louisiana. She is married and lives in Metairie. She and her husband own a karate school in Luling.

Michelle R. Mulkey Griggs is married and lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

1994

Laurie Ann Coco Moreau is the Controller at Bank of West Baton Rouge. She is married and lives in Port Allen.

Luther B. Small is a software developer for Avaya Communications. He is married, has two children and lives in Rowlett, Texas.

1995

Lance P. Scott is a district manager at Wells Fargo Financial. He is married to Holly Gaddis Scott ('96) and lives in Mandeville.

Dr. Robert Carter III is a research physiologist at the United States Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine. He is married and lives in Boston.

1996

Cassandra Savoy Guilbeau is the public relations manager at Delta Downs Racetrack and Casino. She is married and lives in Lake Charles.

Rev. Thomas Worsham IV is a pastor to students (youth & college) at Waller Baptist Church in Bossier.





1997

Tracy Latrice Harris is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and a teacher. She lives in Mesquite, Texas.

1998

Alyssa Simmons is employed by White Settlement Independent School District as a teacher. She lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

Raini Michelle Guidry is employed at Crossland Economy Studios as the general manager. She lives in Baton Rouge.

Emily S. LaCaze is the operations manager at LSU Alumni Association/Cook Conference Center. She lives in Baton Rouge.

Brandie Marie St. Pierre Sievers is a fourth grade science and social studies teacher in Acadia Parish. She is married to Brad Sievers ('95) and lives in Rayne.

Kristin Ann Harkins Fulkerson is a Latin Teacher at Loch Raven Academy in Baltimore, Md. She is married and lives in Randallstown, Md.

1999

Chad Davis is a network analyst at Louisiana Generating LLC. He is married to April Daigle Davis ('00) and lives in Torbert.

Ginger F. Griffin Eppinette is the technology advisor for the Woodland School District. She is married and lives in Deerfield, Ill.

Victoria Alane Cole McNeal is a teacher at Poland Jr. High. She is married and lives in Deville.

Jaime C. Brazzell Fertsch is married to Dieter Fertsch ('01). They are moving to Honduras where Dieter will be the general manager of COGACSA, a Latin American industrial exporter.

2000

Jarrold Lance Sanson is teaching at Peabody Magnet High School. He lives in Alexandria.



III

Casey Crowder

Class of 2001

Northwestern State alumnus Casey Crowder recently won the title of Miss Louisiana and competed in this year's Miss America Pageant held in Atlantic City.

Crowder earned a degree in business administration from NSU last year. She is pursuing a master of business administration from the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

She is the first Northwestern student or alumnus to win the title of Miss Louisiana since Marjorie Hagler (Dial) in 1933.

Crowder competed six times for the Miss Louisiana title before winning this summer.

"I'm a competitive person," Crowder said when describing her motivation to continue year after year. "I never wanted to look back and wonder if I could have won, because I had been close so many times."

Crowder won her first title, Little Miss Potlicker, when she was eight years old. She said she couldn't count how many times she has competed in pageants before.

"I have no idea, not an inkling" she said.

This year's contest won't be Crowder's first encounter with the Miss America Pageant. She watched it in person four years ago.

"It was unreal," she recounted. "The stage is huge, and there are thousands of people."

Crowder said the effort it took to reach the Miss America pageant is the root of her competition anxiety.

"Being in a place I've worked so hard for is nerve-racking," Crowder said.

In the Miss America system, each woman competes in interview, evening gown, swimsuit and talent categories. The contestants also support a platform, which is a set of principles they advocate during their reigning year as Miss America or their respective states.

Crowder's platform focused on mental health awareness for the last five years. In 1997, Crowder's father died of Alzheimer's disease, a form of dementia characterized by progressive memory loss and mental deterioration.

"I saw a need for someone to promote mental health awareness," Crowder said.

The pageant experience has been positive and negative for Crowder. She had times of intense frustration but maintained her confidence to repeatedly participate.

"Getting ready to compete is a lot of work and it's very time consuming," Crowder said. "I think you have to be a strong person and be able to take constant criticism."

Crowder said several years of serious competition have prepared her for professional job interviews and taught her to be comfortable with speaking to large crowds.

While attending NSU, Crowder was a Dean's List student and a member of Phi Mu Fraternity, Purple Jackets, Order of Omega, Purple Pizazz Pom Pon Line and the Student Government Association. III



Clarence Frank is director of orchestras at George H. Gentry Junior School in Baytown, Texas.

Michelle Elizabeth Mire is a clinical social worker at Catholic Charities, a St. Charles Clinical Counseling Branch. She lives in Garyville.

Donna Kaye Dilday Adams is a sixth grade teacher for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools.

Elizabeth Lucille Williams is the assistant program director at Gulf Coast Teaching Family Services, Inc. She lives in Lake Charles.

Amanda Lynn Galiano is employed at Bethany Christian School as a biology and math teacher. She lives in Baker.

2001

Kyle B. Thomas received his commission as a naval officer after completing Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Naval Aviation Schools Command, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.

Christopher Trull is the finance director for the committee to elect Ed O'Brien. He lives in Bethlehem, Pa.

Leslie Ware Kaylo Morgan is employed by the Parker County School Board as a teacher. She is married to David Morgan ('00) and lives in Parker, Colo.

Regina McCrea Daigre is the chairperson of the Business and Career Technology Department for the Cobb County School System. She is married and lives in Hampton, Ga.

Jamie DeAnna Murray McGowan is an underwriter assistant at Summit Consulting, Inc. She is married to Joseph Michael McGowan ('01) and lives in Baton Rouge.

Sean Lehane is in the United States Army and is stationed in Seoul, Korea.

2002

Angie Kaithleen Kulaga is a kindergarten teacher at Rosepine Elementary School.

Jennifer Odell Phillips is the assistant director at Cajun Coast Visitors Conventions Bureau in Jeanerette.



## In Memory

'31 Doris Louise Gaston, Bernice, May 8, 2002

'38 Robert (Bobby) Jones

'40 Opal Napier Wright Magness, Converse, June 13, 2002

'41 Leuella M. Baxter, Natchitoches

'41 Donnie Allen Waller, Shreveport, May 18, 2002

'42 Virginia Johnson Holliday

'42 Hazel LeBlanc Haby, March 29, 2002

'42 F. M. Kelly Ward, Alexandria, June 5, 2002

'43 Neva Graves Noah, May 12, 2002

'52 Harold Jefferson Swilley, July 14, 2002

'52 Lamar E. Rogers, Sr., Jackson, May 13, 2002

'54 Ernestine Jones Moffett, Monroe, July 3, 2002

'57 Ruby Bogan, Castor, June 10, 2002

'59 Samuel Matthew Black, Shallotte, N.C., May 24,

2001

'61 Lois Nell LaCour Johnston, Pineville, June 6, 2002

'64 Margie Kelley Deckard, New Iberia, May 9, 2002

'71 John Wayne Odom, Natchitoches

'75 James Embury Miller, Glenmora, Feb. 9, 2002

'77 Mrs. Exie Butler McInnis

'78 Stephen B. Story

'95 Teresa Wren Gilcrease, Baker City, Oregon,

June 10, 2002

'01 James Wilson McCorkle, Natchitoches, May 29, 2002

'02 Rondray Latrell Hill, Washington, D.C., May 25, 2002

Sarah Ann Hatten Winbery, Alexandria, May 15, 2002

Thelma Eloise Williams Smith, May 21, 2002

Marie K. Thomas, Shreveport, May 10, 2002

Clyde Birch Fulton Jr., Houston, Texas, May 9, 2002

Linda M. Coleman Smith, Shreveport, May 25, 2002

Peggy Isbell Cousins, Lafayette, June 8, 2002

Keith Richard

Dr. Ray E. Simmons, Jr., July 15, 2002

Frances Whatley Loggins, Shreveport, July 10, 2002

Wilkie Forrest Cudd, Denham Springs, July 10, 2002



# Alumni Information Update

Please fill this page out as completely as possible. We are constantly revising our records and your information updates are vital to making the system work. The information from this form is also used for entries in the "Class Notes" section. Please make a copy of this page and give it to any NSU graduate who may not be on our list. We can't keep in touch with you if we can't find you! Thank you.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Miss, Mrs. Mr.) \_\_\_\_\_  
Please Circle Last First Middle Maiden

Current address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NSU undergraduate degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

NSU graduate degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

During which years did you attend NSU? \_\_\_\_\_

Which organizations were you involved in while a student at NSU? \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your spouse an NSU graduate? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

If yes, what degree(s) did he / she earn?

Spouse's undergraduate degree (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's graduate degree (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have children who are potential Northwestern students? Please tell us their names, contact information, and what high school they attend.

Please return to: Alumni Center • Northwestern State University • Natchitoches, LA 71497

If you would like information from Admissions, Financial Aid or the NSU Athletic Association, you can contact them at the following address:

Director of Admissions  
Northwestern  
State University  
Room 103, Roy Hall  
Natchitoches, LA 71497  
(318) 357-4503  
800-426-3754 (Louisiana)  
800-327-1903 (out of state)

Director of Financial Aid  
Northwestern  
State University  
Room 109, Roy Hall  
Natchitoches, LA 71497  
(318) 357-5961

Athletic Director  
Northwestern  
State University  
Room 101C  
Athletic Fieldhouse  
Natchitoches, LA 71497  
(318) 357-5251



The 2002-2003 Demon Dazzler Dance Line members are: (front) Christy Daigle of Lake Charles, Anne Bernard of Natchitoches, Courtney Young of Pickering, (middle) Cassa'Dean of New Orleans, Andrea Pang of Baton Rouge, Erika Thiergart of Natchitoches, Angelin Adams of Covington, Tina Fisher of Bossier City, Staci Alexander of Carthage, Texas, (back) Tory Nunez of Houma and Jessica Marcel of Houma. The NSU Alumni Association will host a reunion reception for former dance line members on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Alumni Center. See "Looking Back" on page 7 of this issue for the dance line story.

Alumni Columns  
Northwestern State University  
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0002

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